

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a cross-sectional view of an essential part of a strut as a tube assembly according to an embodiment of the present invention, indicating an overlapping joint between the strut and a spring seat.

Each of Figs. 2(A) and (B) is a perspective view of an essential part of a strut as a tube assembly according to an embodiment of the present invention, indicating an overlapping joint between the strut and a knuckle bracket.

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view showing an example of a joint portion having a laterally extruded shape, which is formed by drawing.

Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional view showing another example of a joint portion having a laterally extruded shape, which is formed by drawing.

Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional view showing a joint portion having a cup-like shape, which is formed by drawing.

Figs. 6(A) and 6(B) are cross-sectional views explaining steps carried out in a drawing method for forming the joint portion shown in Fig. 3.

Figs. 7(A) and 7(B) are cross-sectional views explaining steps carried out in a drawing method for forming the joint portion shown in Fig. 4.

Figs. 8(A) and 8(B) are cross-sectional views explaining steps carried out in a drawing method for forming the joint portion having the cup-like shape.

Fig. 9 is a vertical cross-sectional view of drawn portions of a tube and a knuckle bracket, which are in contact with each other in a cup-like surface configuration.

Fig. 10 is a side view of a punch used for forming the joint portion shown in Fig. 9 by drawing.

Fig. 11 is a cross-sectional view indicating tools for drawing and how the tools are used.

Fig. 12 is a cross-sectional view, taken along the line X-X in Fig. 9_11.

Fig. 13 is a cross-sectional view indicating tools for drawing and how the tools are used.

Fig. 14 is a cross-sectional view, taken along the line Y-Y in Fig. 13.

Fig. 15 is a cross-sectional view of a strut according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 16 is a cross-sectional view showing a general construction of a strut to which an embodiment of the present invention is applied.